

no *THE CASTAWAYS OF THE
FLAG*

" Yes, Fritz, yes ! It really is my albatross; my companion on Birning Rock ; the one to which I tied the note that fell into your hands."

Could it be ? Was not Jenny mistaken ? After three whole years, could that same albatross, which had never returned to the island, have flown to this coast ?

But Jenny was not mistaken, and all were made quite sure about it when she showed them a little bit of thread still fastened round one of the bird's claws. Of the scrap of cloth on which Fritz had traced his few words of reply, nothing now remained.

If the albatross had come from so far, it was no doubt because these powerful birds can fly vast distances. Quite likely this one had come from the east of the Indian Ocean to these regions of the Pacific possibly more than a thousand miles away!

Much petting was lavished upon the messenger from Burning Rock* It was like a link between ^the shipwrecked people and their friends in New Switzerland*

Two days later the year 1817

reached its end.
What did the new year hold
in,store ?